

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A power converter, comprising:
  - an input adapted for receiving an AC input signal and a DC input signal;
  - circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said AC input signal
- 5 providing a converted DC signal and responsive to said DC input signal providing said converted DC signal, said converted DC signal having electrical characteristics which are selectable;
  - programming circuitry having a programmable memory for storing a selection code, said programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and
- 10 cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said converted DC signal based on said selection code.
2. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said electrical characteristics comprise signal voltage, signal current, signal power, signal polarity, and over-voltage protection threshold.
- 15 3. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said circuitry comprises a variable resistive element such that values of resistance are selected based on said selection code, and wherein each value of resistance establishes a corresponding signal voltage for said converted DC signal.
- 20 4. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said memory is configured to be removable from said programming circuitry.
- 25 5. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said memory is adapted to be programmed when said memory is one of coupled with said programming circuitry and de-coupled from said programming circuitry.

6. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said memory is an electrically-programmable read-only memory (EPROM).
7. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said programming circuitry further has an input for receiving a programming signal indicative of said selection code and responsive thereto storing said selection code in said memory.
8. The power converter as specified in Claim 7, wherein said programming circuitry input is adapted for receiving program signaling from a programming controller remotely via the Internet.
9. The power converter as specified in Claim 7, wherein said programming circuitry is further adapted for receiving program signaling from one of an optical signaling device, a magnetic induction signaling device, an acoustic signaling device, and direct connection signaling devices.
10. The power converter as specified in Claim 1 further comprising a plug-in device coupled to said programming circuitry and adapted for receiving said memory for coupling with said programming circuitry.

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11. A power converter system, comprising:
  - an input adapted for receiving an AC input signal and a DC input signal;
  - circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said AC input signal providing a converted DC signal and responsive to said DC input signal providing
  - 5 said converted DC signal, wherein said converted DC signal has selectable electrical characteristics;
    - programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said converted DC signal based on a selection code;
  - 10 a coupler coupled to said programming circuitry, said coupler having a socket adapted to receive a removable memory and couple said memory and said programming circuitry, wherein said selection code is provided from said memory; and
    - an output coupled with said programming circuitry for outputting said
  - 15 converted DC signal.
12. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said selection code is indicative of an electrical characteristic selection and is readable from said memory by said programming circuitry for imposing said electrical characteristic selection upon said converted DC signal.
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13. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is adapted for programming of said selection code when said memory is one of inserted into said coupler and removed from said coupler.
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14. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is adapted for receiving program signaling from one of an optical signaling device, a magnetic

induction signaling device, an acoustic signaling device, and direct connection  
signaling devices.

15. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is adapted for  
5 receiving program signaling from a programming controller remotely via the  
Internet.

16. The system as specified in Claim 11 further comprising a variable resistive  
element having values of resistance which are effectuated based on said electrical  
10 characteristic selection, wherein each value of resistance establishes a  
corresponding signal voltage for said converted DC signal.

17. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said programming circuitry  
further has an input for receiving a programming signal indicative of said  
15 selection code and responsive thereto storing said selection code in said memory.

18. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is an erasable-  
programmable read-only memory (EPROM) and said coupling is a plug-in device  
adapted to receive said EPROM.  
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19. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said electrical characteristics  
comprise signal voltage, signal current, signal power, signal polarity, and over-  
voltage protection threshold.

20. A power converter, comprising:
- an input adapted for receiving an AC signal;
- circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said AC signal for converting said AC signal to a DC signal, said DC signal having electrical characteristics which are selectable;
- programming circuitry having a programmable memory for storing a selection code, said programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said DC signal based on said selection code.

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21. A power converter, comprising:
- an input adapted for receiving a DC input signal;
- circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said DC input signal for converting said DC input signal to another DC signal, said another DC signal having electrical characteristics which are selectable;
- programming circuitry having a programmable memory for storing a selection code, said programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said another DC signal based on said selection code.